

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAMA KO 03134 020116Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 /062 W
-----036988 020129Z /70
R 011738Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7066

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 3134

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, US, ML
SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: MULTILATERAL INFORMATION
ON HOST GOVERNMENTS - MALI

REF: (A) STATE 159747, (B) BAMA KO 2691, (C) 76 BAMA KO 728

1. REFTEL C, BAMA KO'S RESPONSE TO 76 STATE 37591, REMAINS
GENERALLY VALID. MALI CONSIDERS ITSELF INDEPENDENT IN ITS
THINKING, NONALIGNED, AND A "PROGRESSIVE" WITHIN THE MOVE-
MENT. THIRD-WORLD CONSENSUS CONTINUES TO BE THE MAIN
ELEMENT IN MALIAN DECISION-MAKING ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES.
MALI'S POSITIONS IN MULTILATERAL FORUMS ARE ALMOST ALWAYS
AT VARIANCE WITH OURS.

2. FOLLOWING ARE COMMENTS ON MODIFICATIONS THAT HAVE
OCCURRED SINCE TRANSMISSION REFTEL C IN FEBRUARY 1976:

A. ALGERIA, ALTHOUGH STILL INFLUENTIAL, CAN PROBABLY NO
LONGER BE SINGLED OUT AS HAVING THE MOST INFLUENCE OF ANY
INDIVIDUAL STATE, OWING TO REPERCUSSIONS OF SAHARA CONFLICT
AND POLISARIO ACTIVITY ON MALIAN SOIL.

B. WHILE MALI IS RESPONSIVE TO RADICAL ELEMENT
OF THIRD WORLD, NEW STRONGER VOICE OF MODERATE
AFRICAN STATES IN OAU MAY EVENTUALLY HAVE SOME
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EFFECT.

C. AS A RESULT OF THE EMBASSY'S PERSISTENT
EFFORTS OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, SOME KEY MALIANS
DO RECOGNIZE THAT THE COUNTRY'S ACTIONS IN MULTI-
LATERAL FORUMS DO HAVE AN IMPACT ON BILATERAL U.S.-
MALI RELATIONS. THAT WILL PROBABLY MAKE NO DIFFER-

ENCE ON ISSUES MALI CONSIDERS TO BE OF PRIME INTEREST TO IT, SUCH AS SOUTHERN AFRICA OR A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, BUT IT MAY HELP ON QUESTIONS THAT ARE OF MAJOR INTEREST TO US BUT CAN BE SHOWN TO BE OF MARGINAL OR NO CONCERN TO MALI.

D. IN LINE WITH THE FOREGOING, AS REPORTED BAMAKO 2595 AND BAMAKO 2991, MALI MAY PROVE TO BE OF SOME ASSISTANCE ON AVOIDING A CONFRONTATION ON PUERTO RICO BY WORKING TO FIND A SOLUTION NOT REQUIRING A VOTE.

3. APART FROM THE BASIC MALIAN OUTLOOK, A CONTINUING SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR U.S. INTERESTS AT THE UNITED NATIONS IS MALI'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, BOUBACAR KANTE. UE IS RADICAL AND FREEWHEELING AND OFTEN TAKES ACTION ON HIS OWN. A RECOMMENDATION SEEKING TO MITIGATE THE DAMAGE WAS MADE IN RESPEL B, THAT IS, THAT THE DEPARTMENT UNDERTAKE DEMARCHES AT APPROPRIATE TIMES IN WASHINGTON, PARALLEL TO THOSE MADE HERE, TO AMBASSADOR SIMA, WHO HAS LINKS WITH MORE MODERATE ELEMENTS IN THE MALI GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE.

4. EMBASSY MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS OFFICER IS POLITICAL OFFICER DAVID P. RAWSON, NOW ON LEAVE IN CONFIDENTIAL

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UNITED STATES BUT EXPECTED TO RETURN TO POST.
BYRNE

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